

Erie County Ethics Board

August 2018 Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2018 8 a.m. 16th Floor Rath Building

MEMBERS:

Steven Schwartz, Chair
Chris Trapp, Vice-Chair
Warren Galloway

ABSENT:

Rebecca Town, Secretary
VACANT

STAFF:

Leslie Ortiz-Fogg, Counsel
Vianne Uthman, Administrative Staff

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ross Kostecky, Legislature Office (recording)

1. Meeting called to order at 8:06 a.m..
2. July 2018 meeting minutes review and approved with amendments. * (Trapp/Galloway)
3. Website Updates / Email Updates (Uthman/Schwartz):
 - i. Request for opinions/actions:
 - i. Schwartz requested to provide ethics trainings as part of County supervisory training and to Hilbert College students.
 - ii. Requests for investigations to be conducted by Trapp and Schwartz:
 1. Request to investigate person who did not disclose spousal income or employment with county, as required.
 2. Request to investigate whether county employee used public position for personal benefit and disclosed confidential information.
 - ii. FOIL Requests:
 - i. 4/10/18 Szanyi re: Morton documents sent
 - ii. 7/16/18 Szanyi re: Morton documents requested; counsel sent response with notice of delay
 - iii. 5/17/18 Spina (Buffalo News) requests for current Financial Disclosures for elected officials responded 7/10/18
 - iii. Other communications:
 - i. Schwartz reported on elected officials who were required to file reports with Clerk concerning family members employed by government had done so.
 - ii. DSS client with special concerns referred to S. Reynolds in DSS for resolution.
4. Old Business:
 - i. (Schwartz) Resume submitted to County Executive for possible candidate for vacant board position through December 31, 2022.
 - ii. (Trapp): No updates in the matter of Morton vs. County of Erie, et al.:
 - iii. (Schwartz/Uthman) All Financial Disclosures for 2017 received and reviewed and all follow-ups completed. Normal letters sent out advising some elected officials about avoiding potential conflicts of interest. One disclosure still delinquent due to extensive

medical problems. Schwartz will contact him by phone today to get information verbally. One disclosure will be object of further investigation.

- iv. (Trapp) Updated Rules & Regulations to include Non-disclosure and Confidentiality Agreement deferred to September meeting.
- 5. New Business: Schwartz will be working on updates to letters requesting department heads for names of those required to provide disclosures and letters that notify persons required to complete disclosures of their right to appeal this requirement. The disclosure form will also need to be updated to reflect 2018 changes to the County Code of Ethics and requirements for filing. Schwartz and Uthmann will work on notice to County Employees about changes from legislation, especially gift restrictions, and reference to the new law.
- 6. Next meeting scheduled for Monday September 17, 2018 at 8 a.m.
- 7. Motion to adjourn (Trapp/Galloway). Meeting adjourned at 8:39 a.m.